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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

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1. The Central Agency of Peasant Self-Help Agricultural Cooperatives (Centrala Rolnicza Spoldzielni Samopomoc Chlopska - CRSSCh) was the central board of a union of rural cooperatives. It was an enormous state controlled commercial organization which employed about 200,000 employees working in approximately 2800 village cooperatives and more than 40,000 retail shops and purchasing points; having the monopoly for rural trade, it supplied and sold all goods and commodities necessary for the villages through a chain of wholesale and retail shops. It was also a purchasing agency for all agricultural products produced by private farmers, such as surpluses of grain, peas, beans, poppy seeds, potatoes, fruit, flax, hemp, cattle, sheep, poultry, eggs, wool, hides, and agricultural by-products like horn, hog bristle, horse hair, straw, etc. It also had its own manufacturing and service establishments, such as flour mills, canneries, and workshops for its own needs.
2. Source did not know the detailed organization of the CRSSCh. However, he was able to draw an outline of the organizational structure (see page 4) and gave the following general information:
  - a. The central office of the CRSSCh was organized and fulfilled its functions like an independent ministry; the chairman of the CRSSCh held a position equal to the rank of a minister. It was subordinated directly to the Presidium of the Council of Ministers. The central office was, in fact, a central board (zarzad glowny). It was located in Warsaw at 20 Kopernika Street in a five-story building and was divided into several departments and sections.

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b. The rural administrative and commercial structure of the CRSSCh consisted of the following offices which controlled the large chain of wholesale and retail shops and independent establishments:

- (1) The Voivodship Administration of Township Peasant Self-Help Cooperatives (Wojewodzki Zarzad Gminnych Spoldzielni Samopomoc Chlopska-WZGSSCh) was an administrative office which controlled all CRSSCh establishments in its voivodship.
- (2) The County Administration of Township Peasant Self-Help Cooperatives (Powiatowy Zarzad Gminnych Spoldzielni Samopomoc Chlopska - PZGSSCh) was an administrative office with a director in charge and consisted of the personnel, sales, production, and transportation sections. It was subordinate to its voivodship administration and supplied and supervised all the township and village cooperatives, wholesale shops and warehouses. In cooperation with the commercial and agricultural sections of the County National Council, the PZGS also directed the purchase of agricultural products and livestock from private farmers in the county area.
- (3) The Township Peasant Self-Help Cooperative (Gminna Spoldzielnia Samopomoc Chlopska - GSSCh) with a manager in charge controlled the village retail shops, bakeries, inns, dairies and milk collecting points (zlewnia mleka), and scrap iron and hides purchasing points (punkt skupu).
- (4) The village cooperative retail shops (sklepy detaliczne) of the CRSSCh sold the farmers practically everything they needed, such as food, beer, vodka, household goods, textiles, shoes, coal, fertilizers, petroleum, pitch, nails, horseshoes, agricultural tools and machinery. In general, they were not well supplied; many types of commodities were not available in sufficient quantity, and the farmers had to travel to the towns to make their purchases. Very often the village cooperative retail shops were supplied with luxury goods which were neither needed nor wanted in the villages. As a rule, all retail shops were also purchase points for eggs (pomocnicza zbiornica jaj).

3. The Central Agency of Peasant Self-Help Agricultural Cooperatives cooperated closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to secure the implementation of the Six-Year Plan and also worked with the following ministries and their subordinated administrative agencies:

- a. Ministry of Agrarian and Food Supply Industry.
- b. Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry.
- c. Ministry of Domestic Trade.
- d. Ministry of Purchases.

The rural branches of the CRSSCh also cooperated closely with the commercial and agricultural departments and sections of the voivodship, county and village national councils.

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4. [redacted] the CRSSCh central office commercial section which was responsible for the supplies and sales of agricultural machines and spare parts. This

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section did not keep any records, and the CRSSCh did not have any special department or agency which could cope with the distribution of agricultural machinery. Such ordinary agricultural machines as plows and harrowing machines and tools like scythes and sickles were sold by the village cooperative retail shops. The Central Agricultural Equipment Supply Office (CZR) was concerned with the procurement and distribution of agricultural equipment for private farmers only in that it received the general requirements and data necessary for the national balance sheet for agricultural machines.<sup>1</sup> It was even forbidden for the CZR to provide spare parts for the agricultural machines of private farmers and production cooperatives. The spare parts were mainly produced by small factories and workshops by direct order of the CRSSCh and, as a rule, were distributed directly to the cooperatives or private farmers. In spite of this, the CZR always added about 15% to the annual national procurement plan of spare parts for agricultural machines in order to secure the very much needed supplies for the private farmers, because in almost every past year the CZR had been ordered to supply these spare parts for agricultural machines for the CRSSCh cooperatives by a special order of the Ministry of Agriculture.<sup>2</sup> In such cases, the spare parts were distributed by the wholesale agencies of the CZR. In 1953, the CZR had to accept and distribute all spare parts for agricultural machines which were manufactured for the CRSSCh.<sup>3</sup>

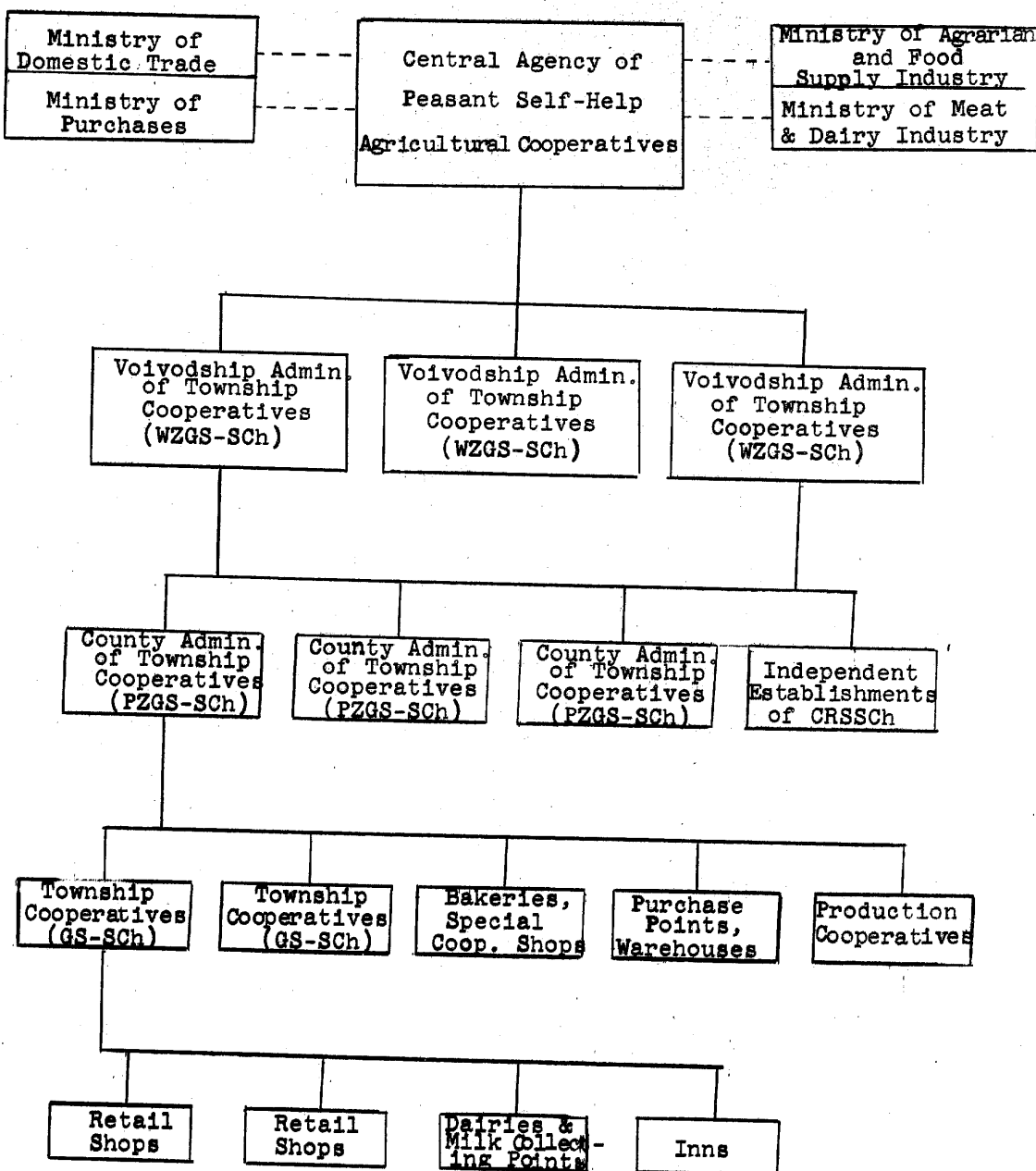
5. Source had read in the Polish press that about 2,500,000 individual private farmers were members of the CRSSCh. The collective farms called "production cooperatives" (spoldzielnie produkcyjne) were also members of the CRSSCh as units. Source did not know to what extent the production cooperatives were controlled by the County Administration of Township Cooperatives.

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Outline of the Organizational Structure of  
the Central Agency of Peasant Self-Help  
Agricultural Cooperatives (CRSSCh) in Poland



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